

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY ANNOUNCES \$1.65 MILLION FOR NEWBURGH-BEACON FERRY

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) today announced that the omnibus federal spending bill that will pass the House today includes \$1.65 million for ferry service between Beacon and Newburgh. A member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey secured the funds in the Transportation Appropriations bill, one of those rolled into the omnibus.

"Ferry service will greatly enhance the benefits of having a Metro North station in Beacon," said Hinchey. "In addition to alleviating traffic congestion and overcrowded parking facilities, it will boost the waterfront development efforts of both Newburgh and Beacon. This is a project I've been working on for a long time so I'm gratified to see that this funding is on its way."

From 1996 to 2000, Hinchey worked closely with the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York State, Scenic Hudson and other groups in the effort to obtain approval of the ferry dock design from the Army Corps of Engineers and the effort to fund the project. Local officials contacted Hinchey again last year to seek federal assistance. He used his position on the Appropriations Committee to secure the funds.

In Newburgh the funds will be used for:

- Construction of a walkway between the parking area on Water Street and dock on Front Street, include paving, lighting and structural support.
- Re-stripping along Front Street and in parking areas to delineate ferry-parking spaces.
- Existing Dock area improvements, including a new roof and a new boardwalk surrounding the dock area
- Purchase and installation of kiosks, benches, and a shelter
- Purchase and installation of a floating dock
- Intermodal facility upgrades to accommodate bus connections

In Beacon the money will help fund improvements to the shelter, preparation of a walkway, and the purchase and installation of a floating dock. The funds may also go toward the purchase or long-term lease of a ferry vessel.